

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed July 28, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 2, 4 – 13, and 15 – 19 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action indicates that claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for lack of antecedent basis. In this regard, Applicant has amended claim 1 and respectfully asserts that the rejection has been rendered moot. However, the Office Action also contends that the term “printing device” as used in Applicant’s claims could read on a device such as a computer that can send a print instruction to another device. In this regard, Applicant respectfully asserts that such an interpretation is not consistent with the “broadest reasonable interpretation” standard upon which examination is properly based. In this case, Applicant has not recited the term “printing device” without further structural and/or functional limitations which could potentially render the definition set forth in the Office Action plausible.

For instance, Applicant’s claim 1 recites that the “printing device [is] configured to print information as hard copy.” Thus, with respect to claim 1, such a printing device could not be a computer or other device that merely sends a printing instruction because such does not perform the actual printing. As another example, claim 11 recites that the “printing device [is] operative to print information as hard copy.” Thus, with respect to claim 11, such a printing device could not be a computer or other device that merely sends a printing instruction because such does not perform the actual printing. As still another example, claim 18 recites that “the information that is to be printed is . . . printed by the printing device.”

Thus, with respect to claim 18, such a printing device could not be a computer or other device that merely sends a printing instruction because such does not perform the actual printing.

With respect to claim 15, Applicant has amended that claim in order to clarify certain aspects of that claim. Specifically, Applicant has amended claim 15 to recite “the printing device being operative to print information as hard copy.” Thus, with respect to claim 18, such a printing device could not be a computer or other device that merely sends a printing instruction because such does not perform the actual printing.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asserts that the use of the term “printing device” as recited in Applicant’s claims is clear and unambiguous, and that any device that does not print hard copy cannot be properly considered to be a “printing device” as defined in the pending claims. Note that Applicant is not attempting to interject limitations from the Specification into the claims as the claims themselves recite the aforementioned limitations.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 2, 4 – 13 and 15 - 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Maldy* in view of *Choudhury*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

In this regard, *Maldy* relates to establishing of secure communications between users, wherein a center generates keys for such communications. However, *Maldy* does not teach or reasonably suggest providing of such keys by a printing device. Neither does *Choudhury*.

In particular, *Choudhury* relates to the secure communication of documents within a network, such as from a server to a printer. As disclosed in *Choudhury*, a “Document Server 3 provides encoded, encrypted and compressed document [sic] to User 17.” (*Choudhury* at column 3, lines 39 – 41). Thus, there is no teaching or reasonable suggestion within

Choudhury indicating that a printing device (which is able to print hard copy) provides any keys for enabling encryption of a document that is to be printed by the printing device.

Therefore, even if *Choudhury* and *Maldy* are combined, that combination does not teach or reasonably suggest all of the limitations recited in Applicant's claims.

In this regard, claim 1 recites:

1. A secure printing system comprising:
a printing device configured to print information as hard copy, the printing device having located therein a remote print system configured to:
provide a user with an encryption key,
receive information encrypted using the encryption key,
decrypt the information with a corresponding decryption key,
and
enable the information, once decrypted, to be printed.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2 and 4 - 10 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 11, that claim recites:

11. A secure printing system for printing information, the information being stored in memory at a location remote from a user, the information being accessible to the user via a communication network, said secure printing system comprising:
a printing device operative to print information as hard copy, the printing device having contained therein a remote print system, the remote print system being arranged at a location remote from the information and configured to provide a user with an encryption key,

said remote print system being configured to communicate with the communication network such that said remote print system receives information encrypted using said encryption key,

said remote print system being further configured to decrypt said information with a corresponding decryption key, and enable said information, once decrypted, to be printed;

wherein once said information is decrypted using said decryption key, said printing device is enabled to print said information as hard copy.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 11 unpatentable. In particular,

Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 11.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 12 and 13 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 11, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 15, that claim recites:

15. A method for secure printing of information transmitted via a communication network, the information being stored in memory at a first location remote from a user, the information being accessible to the user via the communication network, said method comprising:

providing the user with an encryption key from a printing device, the printing device being operative to print information as hard copy;

receiving, at the printing device located at a second location remote from the first location, information encrypted using the encryption key via the communication network;

decrypting the information with a corresponding decryption key using the printing device; and

enabling the information, once decrypted, to be printed by the printing device.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 15 unpatentable. In particular,

Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 15.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 16 and 17 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 15, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 18, that claim recites:

18. A method for secure printing of information transmitted via a communication network, the information being stored in memory at a first location remote from a user, the information being accessible to the user via the communication network, said method comprising:
enabling an encryption key to be received from a printing device located at a second location remote from the first location;
enabling information that is to be printed to be identified; and
enabling the encryption key and information corresponding to the information that is to be printed to be transmitted to the first location via the communication network *such that the information that is to be printed is* encrypted using the encryption key, transmitted to the printing device located at the second location via the communication network, decrypted by the printing device using a corresponding decryption key, and *printed by the printing device.*

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 18 unpatentable. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 18. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Since claim 19 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 18, Applicant respectfully asserts that this claim also is in condition for allowance. Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Additionally, with respect to the contention of the Office Action indicating that Official Notice is being taken as to the display of public keys being old and well-known, Applicant respectfully disagrees. In this regard, Applicant respectfully requests that readily available documentation be provided to support that contention in a subsequent Action if the rejections of claims 4, 12, 13 and 17 are to be maintained.

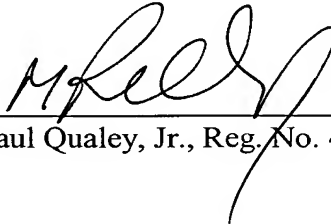
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 10/24/05.


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